

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/710,841 Confirmation No. 4840
Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara, et al.
Filed : August 6, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 1763
Examiner : Ram N. Kackar
Docket No. : 039.0053
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The documents listed on the accompanying "IDS List of References" (a substitute for Form PTO/SB/08) are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above.

REMARKS

All of the presently submitted references, i.e., Cite Nos. F1-F5 as listed on the IDS List of References, are not in English. These references were cited in a communication issued on August 28, 2007 by the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart Japanese application.

(In addition to the references presently being submitted, the JPO also cited, as the first-listed reference in its communication, Japanese Pat. App. Pub. No. H10-237658. This Japanese publication has already been submitted in an IDS dated November 1, 2006 in the instant case, and because it is thus cumulative to material already made of record, the reference is not being submitted here.)

Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)

The JPO communication was in Japanese Pat. App. No. 2003-206806, the foreign patent application on the basis of which priority is claimed in the present application. As a concise explanation of the relevance of Cite Nos. F1-F5, an English translation of the JPO Communication in its entirety is submitted herewith. (A copy of the Japanese Patent Office communication in its entirety follows the English translation.)

Furthermore, English abstracts of Cite Nos. F1 through F3 and F5 are available on the Japanese Patent Office website through Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ), and a copy of the corresponding PAJ abstract is attached to the front of each reference. Cite No. F4 is the Japan National Stage of an International application, and as such the WIPO English abstract is available, and is attached to the front of that reference.

STATEMENT AS SPECIFIED IN 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these references, and to indicate so on the accompanying IDS List of References and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

September 27, 2007

/James Judge/

James W. Judge
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